

This is the faith of the Orthodox!

Η ΑΝΑΓΗΛΩΣΙΣ ΕΝ ΣΟΤΕ Κ' ΑΠΟΝ ΕΙΚΟΝΣ



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensword.org.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Volume 13, Issue 10

Return of the icons



Here is a picture of an icon that has been destroyed by iconoclasts. Do you see how they banged holes in the saint's eyes and body?

What would you do if somebody came into your house and destroyed all your pictures? What if somebody poked holes in the photos of your family? Or cut through some of the pictures of your friends? Or burned the precious pictures of your grandparents or great-grandparents?

That's exactly what *iconoclasts* did, 1,300 years ago. Iconoclasts were people who destroyed icons. That's right—they destroyed pictures of our family—Jesus Christ, the Theotokos, and the saints. They made it against the law to have icons, and even destroyed these holy images whenever they could.

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Today we celebrate the return of icons into our churches and into our homes. We celebrate how we still use icons in our Orthodox faith. We pray with icons, because we know that God became a real person, Who lived here on earth. The Theotokos and the saints are real people too, and we remember them when we see pictures of them!

In 843, St. Theodora and the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council finally brought icons back, making icons legal once again. Today, let's all hold our icons up high, thanking God for our freedom, and thanking St. Theodora and the Church Fathers for their courage!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Brothers
- Caesarius
- Celebration
- Doctor
- Faith
- Great Lent
- Gregory
- Icons
- Orthodoxy
- Restore
- Theodora

B D A R M Y G E D L U W K L T
 W X F Z G R R R S Z E O D T N
 X K D L E O I U B E V D R H E
 S U T G T P I C E Q Z Z J E L
 S I O S O R T H O D O X Y O T
 Q R E F A A B B T N R K M D A
 Y R E S R O T C O D S B E O E
 Z F E H J P Q N S J H J V R R
 V A A D T H T X Z F D B S A G
 C V H I Q O Z R R I M A G G C
 W S J H T T R R P E X V Z G G
 I G O E K H J B T C U O X A F
 E Z E T P D Q G D R R F S U X
 W I G N L B G M V L C G H X C
 C E L E B R A T I O N M K I T

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Along with St. Caesarius, we have lots of other doctor saints in our church!

Here are Saints Cosmas and Damian. Do you see their special boxes with medicine? Can you find the medicine in the icon of St. Caesarius?



SAINT CAESARIUS ST GREGORY'S BROTHER



Do you have brothers or sisters? Do you like to do everything that your sibling likes to do? Do you have the same hobbies? Do you like the exact same subjects in school? Do you like to eat the same foods? Of course, you might have lots of things in common, but you probably aren't *exactly* alike.

Today, we celebrate a saint who had a very famous brother, Saint Gregory the Theologian. St. Gregory was a bishop, and he studied and read and worked hard for the Church. His brother (the saint we celebrate today) was St. Caesarius, and he was different. He liked the sciences—math, astronomy, and medicine. In fact, he became a great doctor. Caesarius even worked as a doctor for the emperors!

St. Gregory and St. Caesarius were brothers, and they were different from each other. However, they helped each other throughout their lives. St. Caesarius encouraged his brother to write things for the Church. We still have many of these writings! Also, St. Gregory advised his brother Caesarius to be close to the Church even though he wasn't working for the Church. They supported each other.

After St. Caesarius died, St. Gregory, the bishop, wrote a beautiful sermon about his brother. We can still read this piece and learn about their special and close relationship. They both had strong faith in the Lord!

We celebrate St. Caesarius today, March 9th (OC: March 22nd).